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District Office
P.O. Box 1869
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

NOV 10 1981

Dear Reader:

This brochure summarizes the Salt Wells Management Framework Plan (MFP) final decisions for the Federal Coal Management Program in the Salt Wells Resource Area. It also describes the process used to develop these decisions. Because this brochure is a summary, some of the detailed supportive data, including legal land descriptions, are not included. The illustrations included should not be used for detailed analysis or interpretation. Detailed information is available for public review in the Rock Springs District Office and the Salt Wells Resource Area office.

The field work supporting this planning effort was performed by BLM personnel in coordination with other Federal, State, and local agencies; industry; and other interest groups. Many organizations and individuals have assisted us in the preparation of these final decisions. Thank you for your interest in making these coal decisions as equitable as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry K. Osthorn
District Manager

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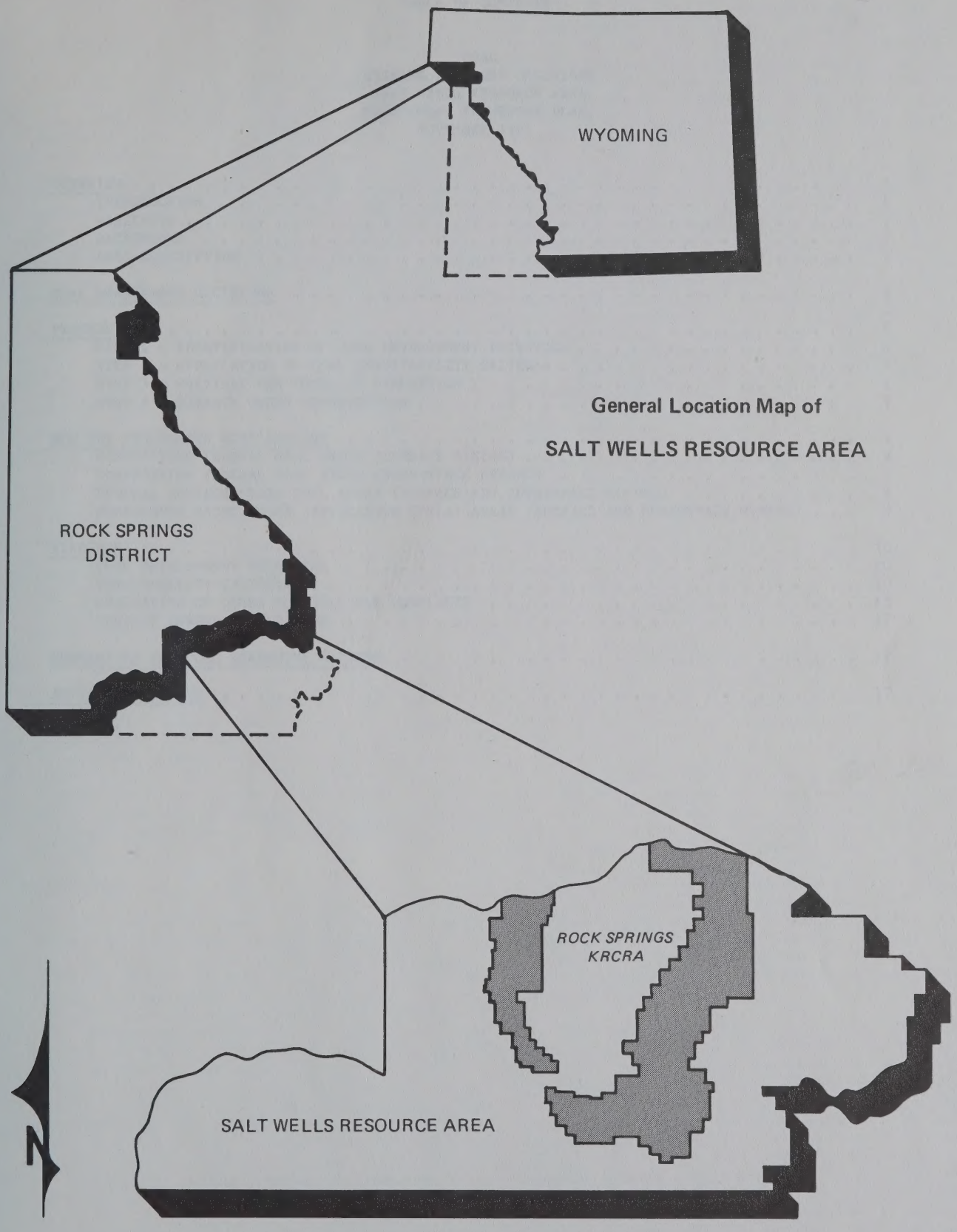

General Location Map of

SALT WELLS RESOURCE AREA

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NOVEMBER 1981

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OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This brochure summarizes the final Federal coal management decisions for the Bureau of Land Management's Salt Wells Resource Area located in southwest Wyoming. The process used to arrive at these decisions is briefly explained. This summary is intended to aid the public in understanding the Federal Coal Management Program as it applies to the Salt Wells Resource Area and to show the requirements that must be met under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3400. These planning decisions will guide management of the Federal coal resource in this area during the 1980's.

OBJECTIVE

Since the last Management Framework Plan (MFP) was completed for the Salt Wells Resource Area in 1977, the Secretary of the Interior has reviewed past policies for leasing Federal coal and has adopted a new Federal Coal Management Program. The objective in managing the Federal coal resource in the Salt Wells Resource Area is to (1) provide for both short and long range development of Federal coal in an orderly and timely manner, consistent with the new Federal Coal Management Program, policies, environmental integrity, national energy needs, and related demands; and (2) identify as much Federal coal as possible that is acceptable for development to help meet coal production goals for 1990 and beyond.

The purpose of this planning effort was to arrive at coal management decisions for the Salt Wells Resource Area that will (1) guide the allocation of the Federal coal resource development by both surface and subsurface mining methods; and (2) provide an analysis which can be used in considering areas for new competitive Federal coal leasing, proposals for lease modifications, emergency leases and exchanges, and in processing noncompetitive Preference Right Lease Applications (PRLAs).

BACKGROUND

Due to developments in the world energy situation during the last few years and the resulting effects on the national economy, accelerated production of domestic energy resources has become a high priority national goal. Current national policy is to decrease U.S. dependence upon foreign oil and achieve energy independence in the late 1980's. This policy includes development of other energy resources and conversion of energy resources to oil and gas uses, offsetting dwindling reserves of domestic oil and gas. The Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have a major responsibility in the fulfillment of these energy goals through making Federal energy resources (coal in this instance) available for development.

In developing the new Federal Coal Management Program, several national coal production regions were established. The Salt Wells Resource Area lies within the Green River-Hams Fork coal region of northwestern Colorado and southcentral/southwestern Wyoming. The first coal lease sale under the new Federal Coal Management Program in this region was held in January 1981. The only Federal coal from Wyoming included in this sale was contained in a few lease tracts in the Hanna Basin area of Carbon County.

The October 1980 Secretarial Issue Document on coal leasing in the Green River-Hams Fork region, recognized a shortfall in Federal coal leasing in 1981 and the need for an early follow-up lease sale, which is scheduled for March 1984. These lease sale dates were established to meet projected production goals necessary to meet energy demands in 1990. To meet these production goals BLM considered possible production from already producing Federal coal leases, from existing nonproducing leases, from noncompetitive PRLAs, and from potential new competitive leasing of Federal coal.

AREA DESCRIPTION

The area reviewed for Federal coal development in the Rock Springs District is shown on the General Location Map of the Rock Springs Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area (KRCRA). The Salt Wells MFP addresses only the southern portion of the Rock Springs KRCRA, which lies in the Salt Wells Resource Area (Map 1-1). The northern portion of the KRCRA is in the Big Sandy Resource Area and is addressed in the Big Sandy MFP.

The review area (Salt Wells portion of the KRCRA) is underlain by an estimated 4.25 billion tons of Federal coal reserves. This coal contains an average of 10,244 British Thermal Units (BTUs) of energy per pound and an average sulfur content of 0.8 percent.

Some of this area has a checkerboard coal and land ownership pattern with alternating sections of Federal and non-Federal coal and lands. Map 1-1 shows the land and coal ownership status. In some cases, ownership of the land surface and the underlying coal is split. There are areas of private or State surface ownership over federally owned coal, and areas of Federal surface ownership over State owned coal. The latter situation was addressed only to determine surface impacts and the need for surface management stipulations, should the State decide to develop the coal under the Federal surface.

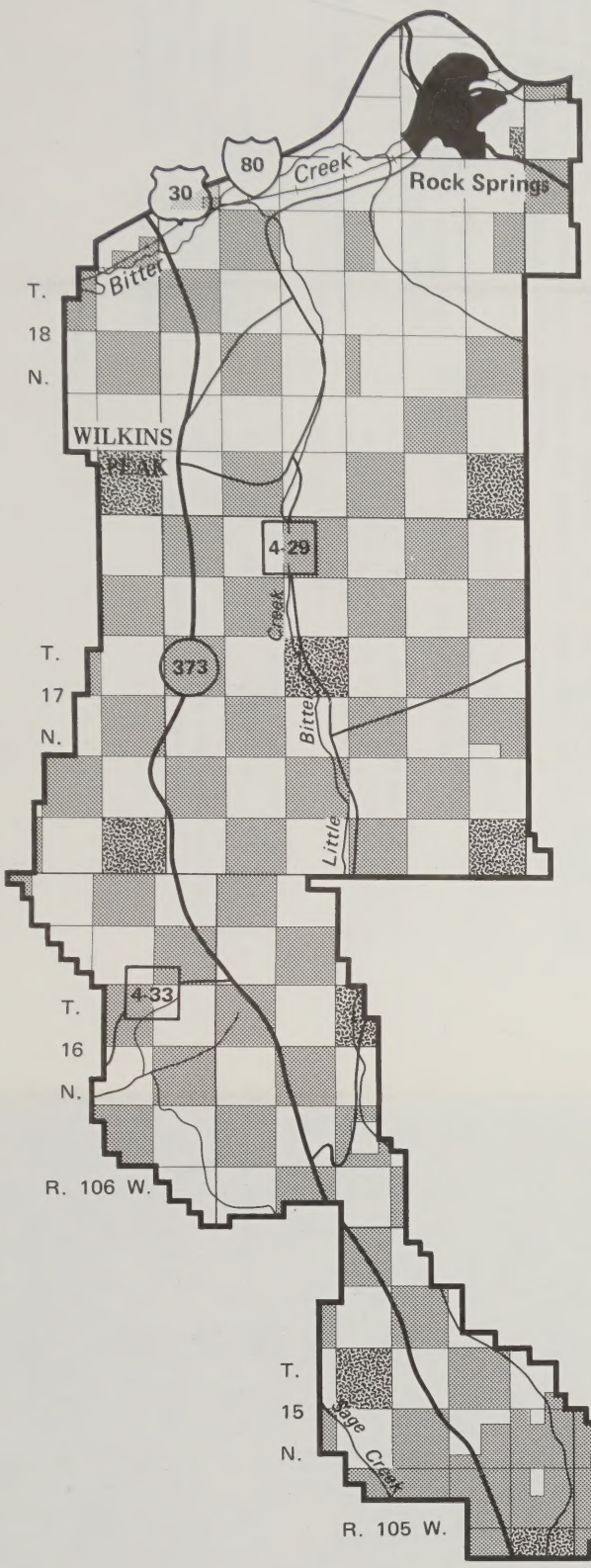
The Red Desert KRCRA, which lies adjacent to and east of the Rock Springs KRCRA, was not assessed for possible coal development. The coal that occurs in this KRCRA is generally of low quality has low development potential, and insufficient resource data is available to delineate potential tracts that may be leased by 1984. Also, there has been no indication of industry interest in developing Federal coal in this area. Any consideration for possible coal development in this KRCRA is deferred to future planning efforts. In the interim, coal resource data gathering and exploration of this area will occur as demand and need dictate.

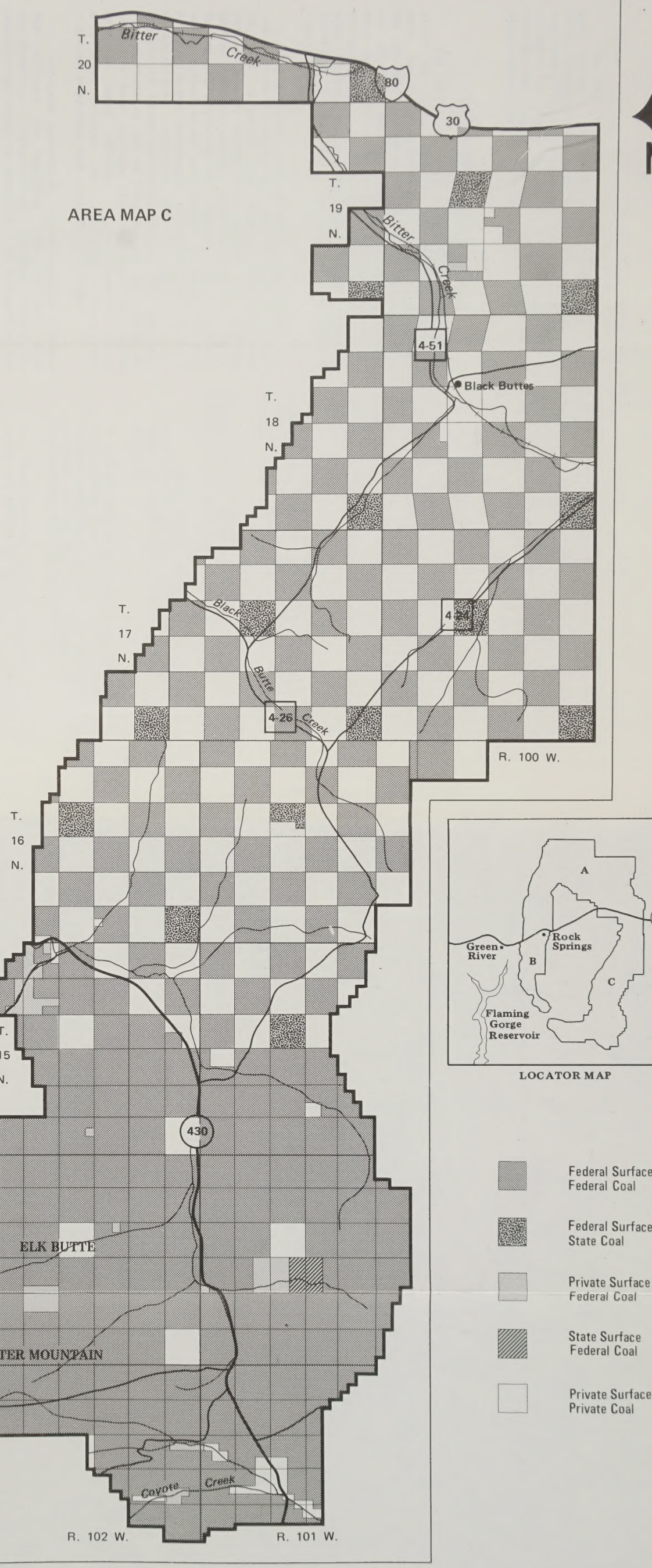
General Location Map of

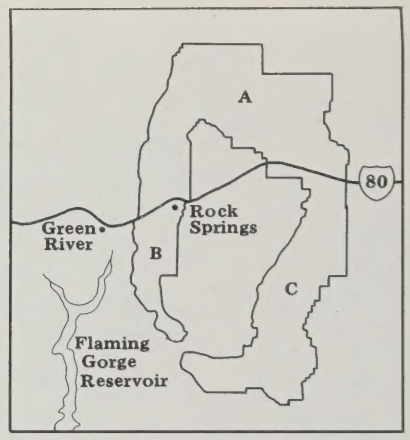
ROCK SPRINGS KNOWN RECOVERABLE COAL RESOURCE AREA (KRCRA)

AREA MAP B

AREA MAP C







LOCATOR MAP

Scale 1 : 200,000

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Miles

Federal Surface Federal Coal

Federal Surface State Coal

Private Surface Federal Coal

State Surface Federal Coal

Private Surface Private Coal

MAP 1–1

LAND and COAL OWNERSHIP

The MFP does not address existing Federal coal leases. All such leases within the Salt Wells Resource Area are "Producing Leases." The new Federal Coal Management Program requirements relative to these leases will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the time of cyclic lease readjustment periods (43 CFR 3451).

COAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

The following Federal coal management decisions and the procedures used in their development, are in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, the Federal Coal Management Program adopted by the Secretary of the Interior in June 1979, and all relative Federal regulations.

The proposed coal management decisions for the Salt Wells Resource Area were issued on June 19, 1981. A public open house and hearing on the proposals were conducted on July 8, 1981, and the 30-day comment period ended on July 21, 1981. During and following the comment period, surface-owner consultation and formal consultation with Wyoming State government on certain of the coal unsuitability criteria were completed. The records of these public involvement and consultation activities are on file for public viewing at the BLM Rock Springs District and Salt Wells Resource Area offices. In summary, these activities raised the following issues and concerns regarding the proposed decisions:

- Apparent procedural inconsistencies between BLM offices in applying some of the coal unsuitability criteria and related errors in identifying areas as unsuitable or acceptable for coal development.

- Determinations of floodplain areas (Criterion #16) to be unsuitable for coal development on the basis of insufficient data and incomplete procedure.

- Recommendations that areas of critical and sensitive wildlife values (Criteria #11, #13, #14, and #15) should be acceptable for coal development, rather than unsuitable, pending studies for capabilities of mitigation, reclamation, etc.

- Impracticalities of establishing firm utility corridors in checkerboard land pattern areas and inflexible prohibition of coal development within them.

- An oversight in addressing real and potential conflicts between oil and gas operations and coal development.

The proposed decisions were reevaluated on the basis of the public comment and consultation information obtained and the final Federal coal management decisions for the Salt Wells Resource Area were developed accordingly. Since this brochure is a summary, the final decisions presented reflect only the results of the final analysis. The detailed information, rationale, and analyses that resulted in either changing or not changing some of the proposed decisions are available for viewing and discussion at the BLM Rock Springs District and Salt Wells Resource Area offices.

A more detailed description of the findings and procedures used to arrive at these decisions is contained in subsequent sections of this brochure. Maps delineating the Federal Coal Management Decisions for Surface Mining (Map 1-4), Subsurface Mining (Map 1-5), and the results of the Coal Unsuitability Review and Multiple Use Conflict Evaluation for PRLAs and Federal Surface-State Coal Areas (Map 1-6), are located at the end of this brochure.

BLM hereby adopts the following decisions for managing the Federal coal resources and Federal surface-State coal areas in the Salt Wells Resource Area.

1. For competitive Federal coal areas with surface mining potential within the Salt Wells portion of the Rock Springs KRCRA:

   a. About 18,860 acres containing approximately 85.0 million tons of coal are acceptable for coal development by surface mining methods.

   b. About 300 acres containing approximately 1.4 million tons of coal are acceptable for further consideration for coal development by surface mining methods, pending results of the ongoing utility corridor study.

   c. Coal leasing will be deferred on 1,200 acres of producing oil and gas fields containing 5.4 million tons of coal, unless or until it is determined that coal development will not interfere with oil and gas operations or that such conflicts can be mitigated in these areas.

These areas will be given further consideration for new competitive Federal coal leasing, emergency leasing, lease modifications, and exchange proposals under the new Federal Coal Management Program.

2. For competitive Federal coal areas with subsurface mining potential within the Salt Wells portion of the Rock Springs KRCRA:

   a. About 33,668 acres containing approximately 247.0 million tons of coal are acceptable for coal development by subsurface mining methods.

   b. About 32,748 acres are also acceptable for the surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining, however, 440 of these acres are only acceptable for very limited surface operations and impacts.

c. About 1,660 acres containing approximately 12.2 million tons of coal are acceptable for further consideration for coal development by subsurface mining methods, pending results of the ongoing utility corridor study.

d. Coal leasing will be deferred on about 2,660 acres of producing oil and gas fields containing approximately 19.5 million tons of coal, unless or until it is determined that coal development will not interfere with oil and gas operations or that such conflicts can be mitigated in these areas.

These areas will be given further consideration for new competitive leasing, emergency leasing, lease modifications, and exchange proposals under the new Federal Coal Management Program.

3. For the 5,120 acres of Federal surface-State coal areas reviewed within the Salt Wells portion of the Rock Springs KRCRA (both surface and subsurface mining methods):

a. About 3,440 acres are acceptable for coal development by surface mining methods.

b. About 5,052 acres are acceptable for coal development by subsurface mining methods. However, 310 acres of this area will carry a stipulation that no surface operations or impacts associated with subsurface mining will be allowed, unless other stipulations could be developed that would adequately protect the values and 730 acres of this area will carry a stipulation for allowing only very limited seasonal uses and types or placement of facilities, activities, etc.

For the remaining Federal surface-State coal areas in the Resource Area (some inside and some outside the KRCRA) that were not reviewed, the coal unsuitability review and multiple use conflict evaluation will be conducted on a case-by-case basis, should the State lease the coal or as mining and reclamation plans are submitted.

4. For PRLAs (both surface and subsurface mining methods): Process the seven PRLAs in the Salt Wells Resource Area by the end of Fiscal Year 1982. Special attention will be given to those sensitive value areas identified through application of the coal unsuitability criteria, in the preparation of environmental assessments for these PRLAs. These assessments will result in development of special stipulations necessary for protection of sensitive values. These protective stipulations will be carried through the final processing and leasing decisions for the PRLAs.

5. Keep the entire Salt Wells Resource Area open to coal resource inventory and exploration, to aid in identification of coal resources and their development potential.

PROCEDURES

The Federal Coal Management Program established four major steps to be used in the identification of Federal coal areas that are acceptable for coal development. The four steps are (1) Identification of coal development potential; (2) Application of the coal unsuitability criteria; (3) Multiple use conflict evaluation; and (4) Surface owner consultation. Collectively, these steps are called the "Coal Screening Process" (43 CFR 3420.2-3) and are applied in sequence to the review area.

The following is a description of each of these steps and how they were applied to the review area.

STEP 1 - IDENTIFICATION OF COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Areas of known high and moderate coal development potential for both surface and subsurface mining were identified using Geological Survey (GS) Coal Resource Occurrence-Coal Development Potential (CRO-CDP) Maps. Other areas assumed to have at least moderate development potential were also identified, using geological and economic data submitted by coal companies and interpretations of available geological data from various other sources. The areas of known and assumed high and moderate coal development potential are shown on Map 1-2.

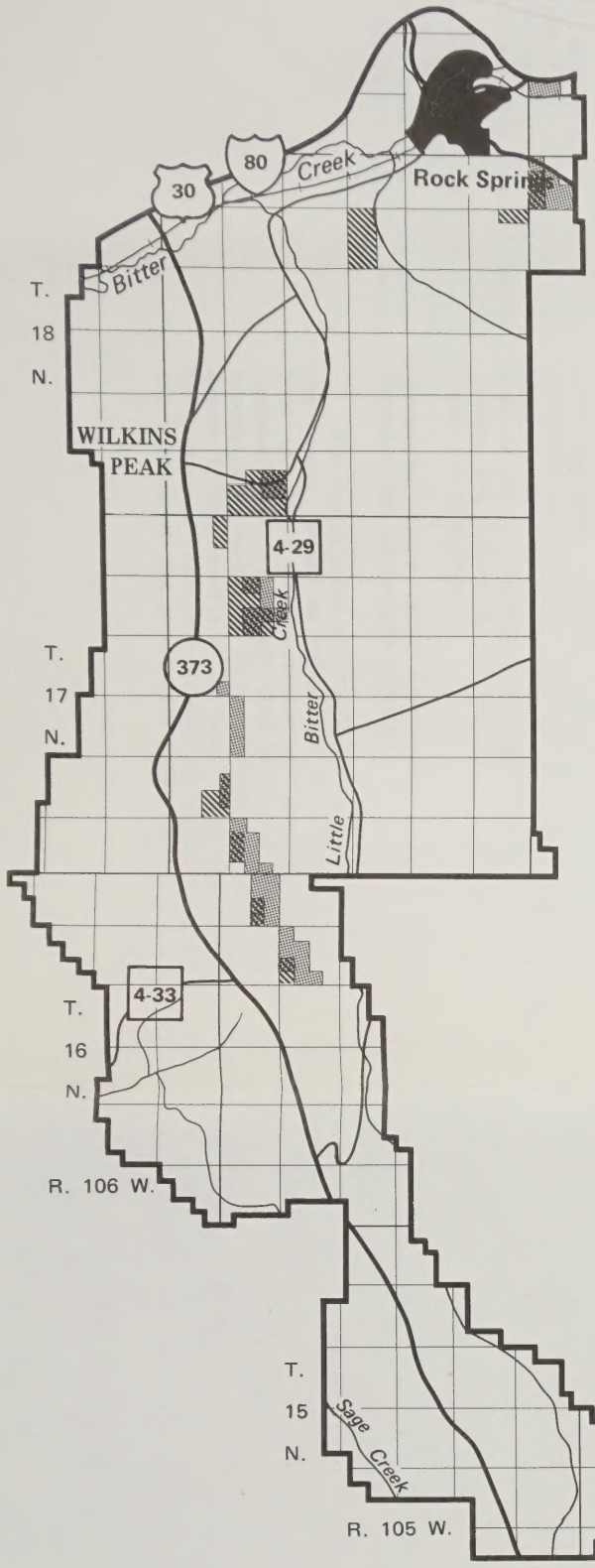
High coal development potential for surface mining has a stripping ratio of 0 to 10 cubic yards of overburden per ton of coal. Moderate coal development potential for surface mining has a stripping ratio of 10 to 15 cubic yards of overburden per ton of coal. Areas of high and moderate coal development potential for subsurface mining methods are defined as areas underlain by coal beds at depths ranging from 200 to 1,000 feet and 1,000 to 2,000 feet, respectively.

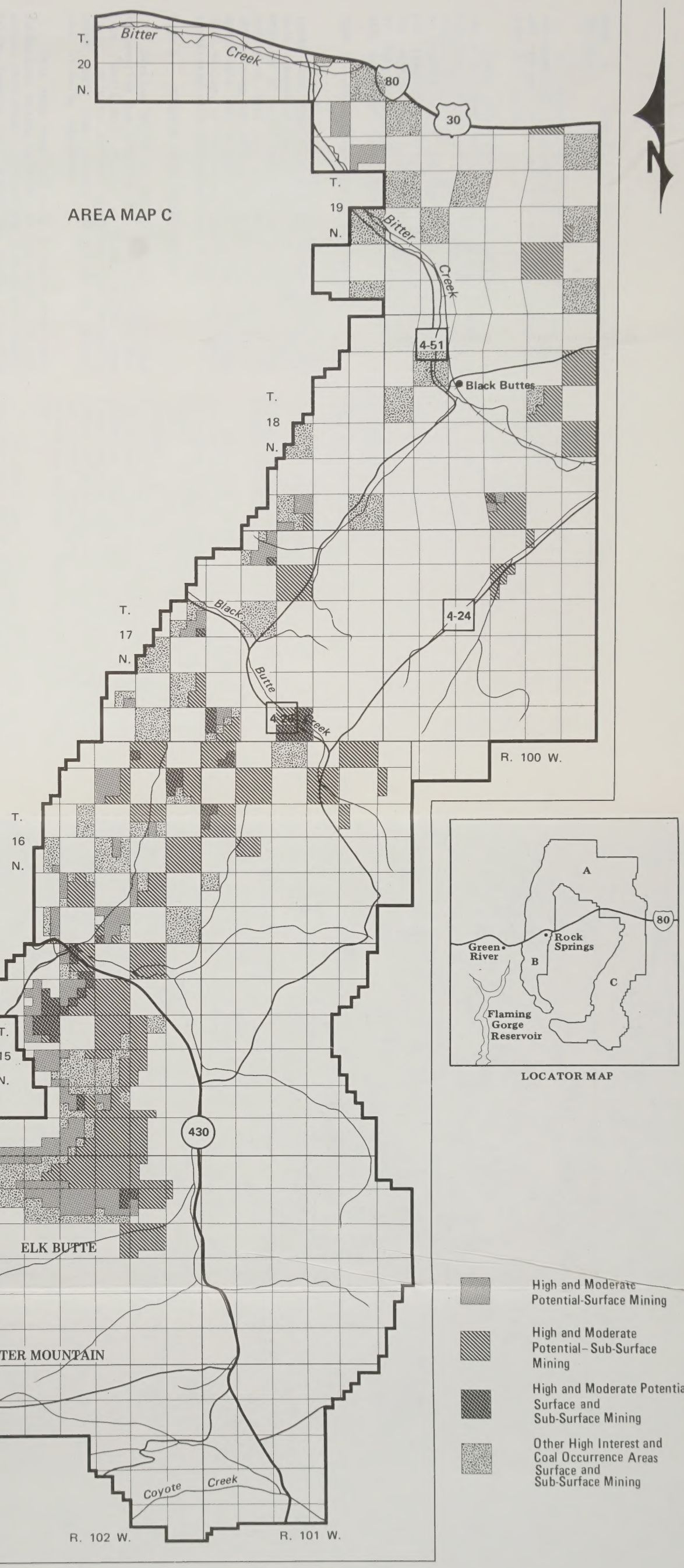
In applying this screening step, some areas of low and unknown coal development potential within the review area were excluded from further consideration.

The remaining three screening steps are applied to those high and moderate coal development potential areas (both known and assumed) identified in Step 1. These latter steps are applied in sequence and only to the lands identified as acceptable for coal development in each preceding step. This results in (1) identifying areas that are acceptable for coal development in each of these 3 steps; and (2) identifying areas that are unsuitable (Step 2), unacceptable (Step 3), and unavailable (Step 4) for coal development. Finally, all Federal coal areas that pass through the screening process are determined to be acceptable for coal development by either surface or subsurface mining methods or both.

AREA MAP B

AREA MAP C





LOCATOR MAP

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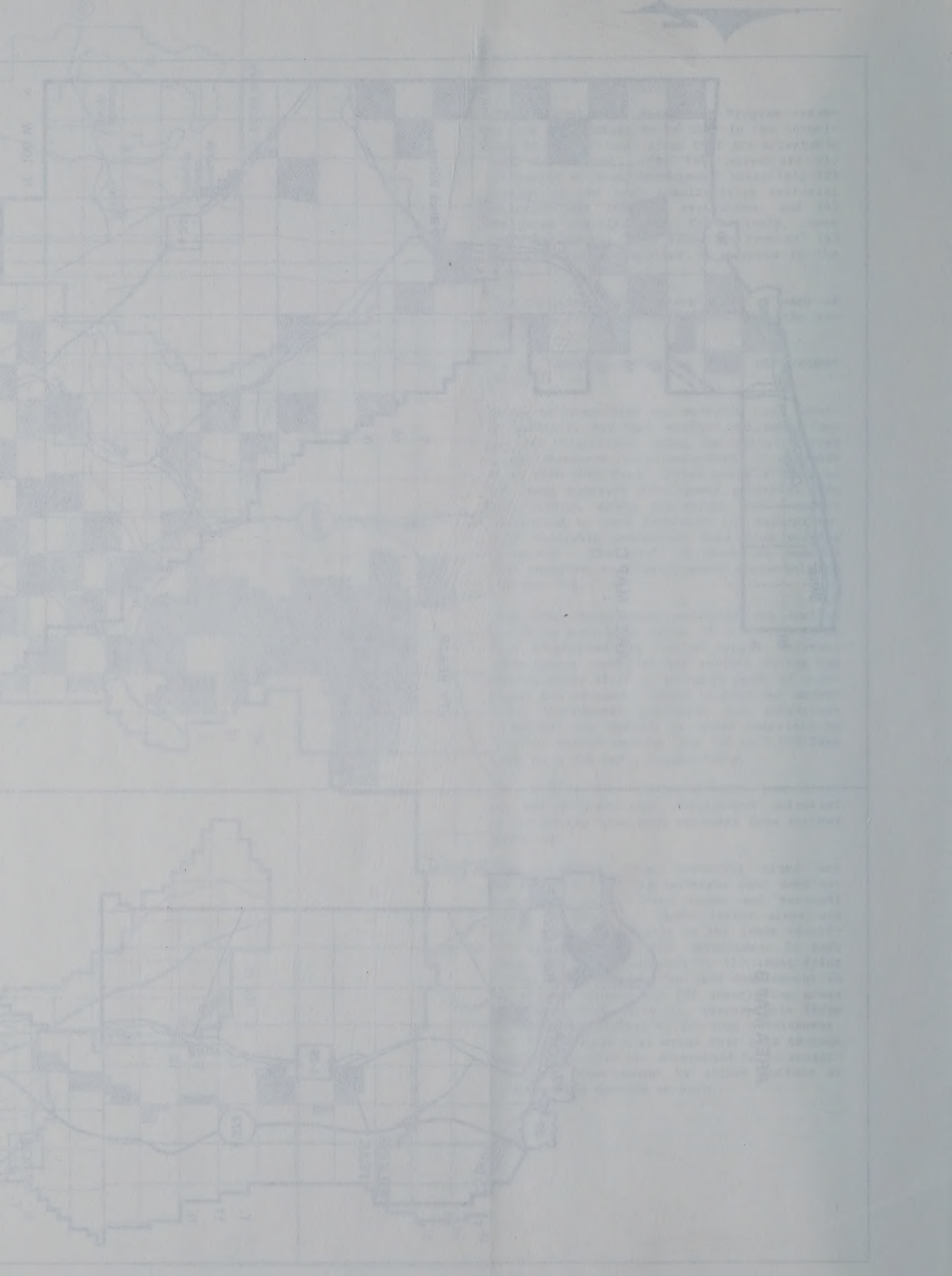
Miles

- High and Moderate Potential-Surface Mining
- High and Moderate Potential–Sub-Surface Mining
- High and Moderate Potential-Surface and Sub-Surface Mining
- Other High Interest and Coal Occurrence Areas Surface and Sub-Surface Mining

MAP 1–2

COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



STEP 2 - APPLICATION OF COAL UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA

As required by 43 CFR 3461, the 20 coal unsuitability criteria were applied to all known and assumed high and moderate coal development potential areas.

These criteria involve consideration of the resource values such as scenic areas, natural and historic values, wildlife, floodplains, alluvial valley floors, etc. The purpose of this step is to identify areas with key features of environmental sensitivity that would make them unsuitable for surface coal mining, subsurface coal mining, or for surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface coal mining.

STEP 3 - MULTIPLE USE CONFLICT EVALUATION

This step is a review of those Federal coal lands that remain acceptable after applying the coal unsuitability criteria. It involves consideration of other multiple use values (i.e., not concerned with the unsuitability criteria) and identifying any additional areas that would be unacceptable for surface coal mining, subsurface coal mining, or for surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface coal mining.

STEP 4 - SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION

Section 714 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act requires BLM to consult with certain "qualified" owners of split estate lands (i.e., private surface ownership over federally owned coal) when surface mining of the Federal coal is being considered.

This step does not apply to areas where only subsurface mining methods are concerned. It involves only those split estate lands within competitive Federal coal areas that remain acceptable for development by surface mining methods after conducting the multiple use conflict evaluation.

In this consultation process, qualified surface owners are asked to express their preference for or against surface mining of the Federal coal under their private lands. Either an individual or significant numbers of these surface owners expressing a preference against surface mining, can result in identifying split estate lands as unavailable for coal development. Such areas can still be considered for possible leasing beyond this land use planning stage. This is possible because the actual commitment of surface owner consent or refusal to consent does not occur until later in the coal activity planning process, prior to offering a lease for the Federal coal involved.

HOW THE PROCEDURES ARE APPLIED

To help clarify the coal screening process, two Federal coal categories are identified: PRLAs (noncompetitive potential Federal coal lease areas) and competitive Federal coal areas. Competitive coal areas are those with the potential to be considered for new competitive Federal coal leasing, modifications to existing leases, emergency leasing, and exchanges. Also for clarity, situations involving Federal surface overlying State coal are identified.

COMPETITIVE FEDERAL COAL AREAS (SURFACE MINING)

All four steps of the screening process are applicable to these areas.

COMPETITIVE FEDERAL COAL AREAS (SUBSURFACE MINING)

Only steps 1-3 of the screening process are applicable to these areas.

FEDERAL SURFACE-STATE COAL AREAS (SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE MINING)

Only steps 2 and 3 of the screening process are applicable to these areas. In applying these screening steps, any areas of the Federal land surface with key features, environmental sensitivity, or other values that would make them unsuitable or unacceptable for coal development are identified. State owned coal reserves are not considered. The purpose behind applying these screening steps to these areas is to provide a basic resource analysis in the MFP for developing needed stipulations and protective measures for the Federal land surface, should the State decide to develop the coal. These areas are shown on Map 1-3.

In conducting this planning effort, BLM reviewed only those Federal surface-State coal areas within the Rock Springs KRCRA where industry indicated an interest in developing the coal. Thus, there are still some of these areas in the Salt Wells Resource Area (both inside and outside the KRCRA) that have not been reviewed. BLM generally considers potential coal development in these remaining areas to be a valid consideration and within the general scope of this and other land use plans covering the Resource Area. Coal unsuitability reviews and multiple use conflict evaluations for these remaining areas will be handled on a case-by-case basis as State coal leases are issued or as mining and reclamation plans are submitted.

PREFERENCE RIGHT LEASE APPLICATION (PRLA) AREAS (SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE MINING)

The connotation of "Preference Right" is that any leases issued on PRLAs are "noncompetitive." That is, if in the processing of PRLAs it is determined that the Federal coal they contain can be economically developed in an environmentally sound manner (either wholly or in part), the areas will be leased and the leases will be issued to only the holders of the preference right applications.

These rights were established under the former prospecting permit system before the Federal coal leasing moratorium went into effect.

The Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976 abolished noncompetitive (Preference Right) leasing, subject to valid existing permits and applications. Under the new Federal Coal Management Program, BLM is now required to complete processing of all existing PRLAs by no later than December 1, 1984. However, one coal company has requested that BLM expedite processing of their PRLA as they require the coal much earlier than December 1984. The coal regulations (43 CFR 3430.3) permit expeditious processing of PRLAs upon request. In the interest of efficient use of manpower and funding, all PRLAs within the Salt Wells Resource Area will be processed on the same accelerated schedule. Processing is expected to be completed (i.e., to the point of issuing leases or rejecting applications) by December 1982. This is a tentative target date and subject to change.

Map 1-3 shows the PRLAs within the Salt Wells Resource Area. Procedures for processing PRLAs are only partially related to the coal screening process. That is, only steps 2 and 3 of the screening process are applicable. Conducting these procedures for PRLAs may be completed as a part of the land use planning process, or it could be conducted as a separate process.

As a matter of efficiency and timing BLM elected to conduct the unsuitability criteria application and the multiple use conflict evaluation for the PRLAs during land use planning. Thus, the MFP provides a basic resource analysis for use in later PRLA processing requirements.

The potential impacts of coal development upon the values and concerns identified in the PRLA areas will be addressed later in the preparation of environmental assessments or environmental impact statements. This will result in development of necessary stipulations and mitigation requirements to be used in the final adjudication of the applicants' rights to coal leases. Final adjudication could result in either rejection of applications, issuance of coal leases, or exchanges of sensitive value areas that should not be mined.

FINDINGS

The following is a summary of the findings and related recommendations resulting from conducting the coal screening process. All acreage and coal tonnage figures are approximate. Additional documentation and background information, explaining in detail how the procedures were used and the findings made, are available for public review at BLM's Rock Springs District and Salt Wells Resource Area offices.

COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Table 1-1 (located at the end of the brochure) summarizes the findings of Step 1 - Federal Coal Development Potential. See also Map 1-2.

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA

The following discussion briefly explains the findings resulting from application of each unsuitability criterion. Tables 1-2 through 1-4 list the findings by criterion. Tables 1-5 through 1-7 summarize the overall results of the application of the unsuitability criteria. Maps 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 also show the overall summary results of applying the criteria. All of these tables and maps are located at the end of the brochure.

Criterion #1 - Federal Land Systems

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #2 - Rights-of-Way and Easements

Most of the rights-of-way crossing the coal areas can be relocated to accommodate coal mining and related activities. Thus, BLM made a "general" determination that most right-of-way areas are acceptable for coal development, subject to valid existing rights and negotiations for relocating if necessary, appropriate stipulations and consistency with current planning and management decisions. Any unforeseen conflicts in these areas should be identified and resolved during the coal activity planning process or in mining and reclamation plan development. Only those areas where coal development would create significant conflicts with rights-of-way are identified below.

Competitive Federal Coal Areas

About 120 acres containing approximately 0.5 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods. About 84 acres containing approximately 0.6 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining and for surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining. The rights-of-way involved are Interstate 80 and the Union Pacific Railroad.

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

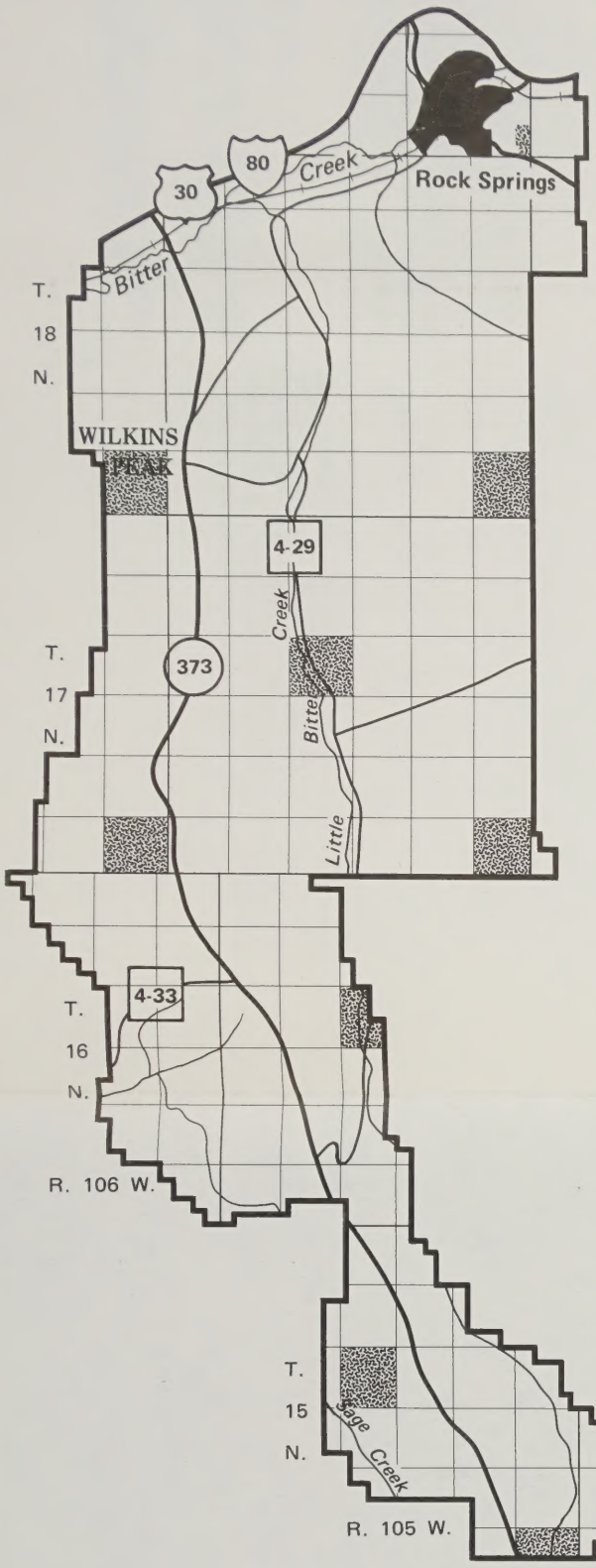
About 360 acres of Federal surface-State coal areas were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods, and for surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining. About 50 of these acres were also determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining. The right-of-way involved is Interstate 80.

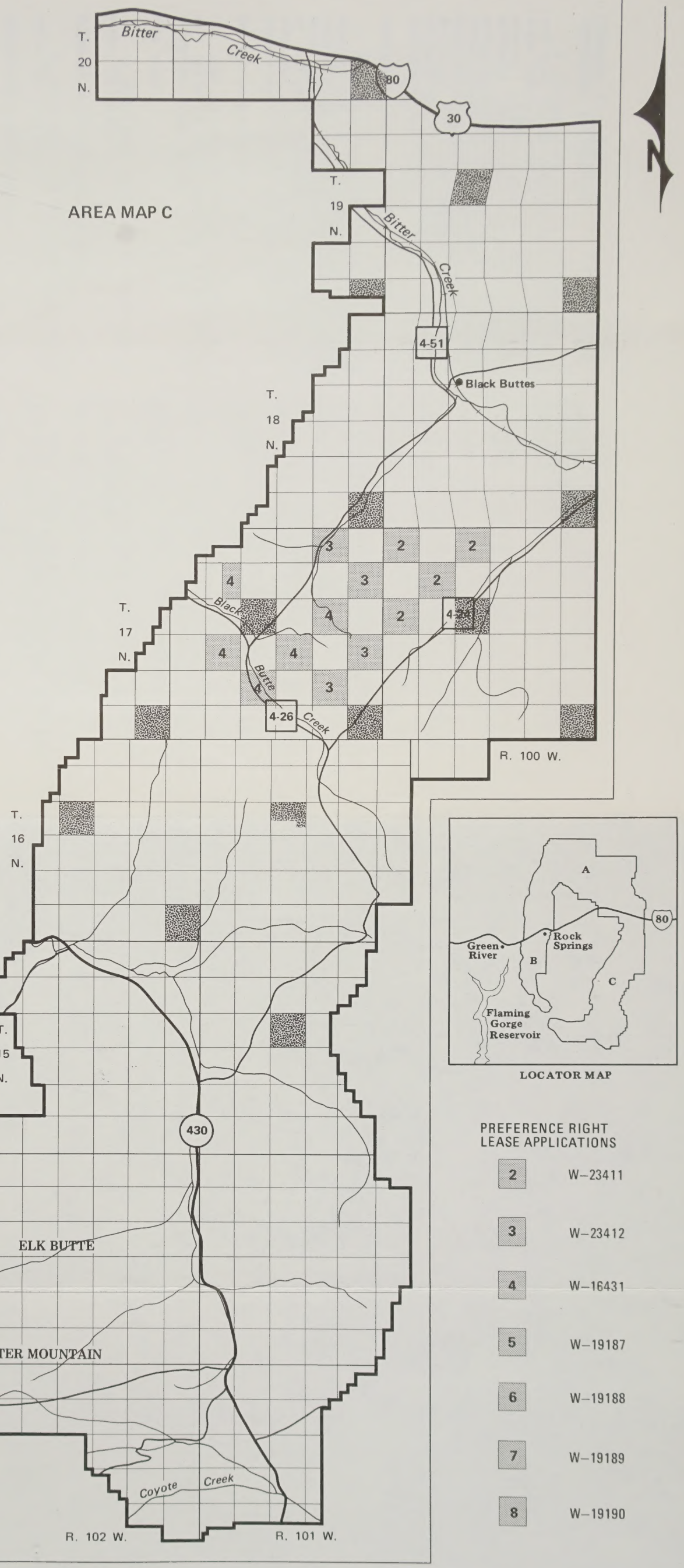
PRLA Areas

No acres were determined to be unsuitable within PRLA areas.

AREA MAP B

AREA MAP C





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LOCATOR MAP

PREFERENCE RIGHT LEASE APPLICATIONS

2	W–23411
3	W–23412
4	W–16431
5	W–19187
6	W–19188
7	W–19189
8	W–19190

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

MAP 1–3

PREFERENCE RIGHT LEASE APPLICATIONS (PRLAs) and FEDERAL SURFACE-STATE COAL AREAS

Criterion #3 - Buffer Zones for Rights-of-Way, Communities, and Buildings

A 100-foot buffer zone was established on each side of the rights-of-way for Federal and State highways. There are no public cemeteries, schools, churches, community or institutional buildings, public parks or occupied dwellings within the Federal coal areas. The only right-of-way involved is Interstate 80. In consulting with the Wyoming Highway Department, it was determined that State Highway 430 could be relocated to the extent that design and standard requirements would allow.

Competitive Federal Coal Areas

About 14 acres containing approximately 0.06 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods. About 8 acres containing approximately 0.06 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining and surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining.

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

About 18 acres of Federal surface-State coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface and subsurface mining methods.

PRLA Areas

No acres were determined to be unsuitable within PRLA areas.

Criterion #4 - Wilderness Study Areas

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #5 - Scenic Areas

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #6 - Lands Used for Scientific Study

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #7 - Historic Lands and Sites

A segment of the Overland Trail and a 1/4-mile buffer zone on each side of the trail have been identified as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This site is determined to be unsuitable for surface mining and for any surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (i.e., support facilities, ancillary facilities, subsidence, etc.).

Competitive Federal Coal Areas

About 640 acres containing 2.9 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Note: 72 acres of this area overlap with an unsuitable area identified under Criterion #2.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, about 920 acres with subsurface mining potential were determined to be unsuitable for surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining.

Note: 82 acres of this area overlap with an unsuitable are identified under Criterion #2.

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

No acres were determined to be unsuitable within Federal surface-State coal areas.

PRLA Areas

No acres were determined to be unsuitable within PRLA areas.

Criterion #8 - Natural Areas

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #9 - Federally Listed Endangered Species Habitat

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #10 - State Listed Endangered Species Habitat

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #11 - Bald and Golden Eagle Nests

Eagle nests and appropriate buffers were identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Competitive Federal Coal Areas

About 1,020 acres containing approximately 4.6 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, about 600 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

About 560 acres were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, the above 560 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

PRLA Areas

About 440 acres in PRLA #W-23412 were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, the above 440 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

Criterion #12 - Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #13 - Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites

Competitive Federal Coal Areas

About 500 acres containing approximately 2.3 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Note: 460 acres of this area overlap with unsuitable areas identified under Criteria #2, #7, and #11.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, about 80 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement, and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

Note: 40 acres of this area overlap with an unsuitable area identified under Criterion #7.

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

About 500 acres were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Note: 400 acres of this area overlap with an unsuitable area identified under Criterion #11.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, the above 500 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

PRLA Areas

About 440 acres were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Note: These 440 acres coincide with the 440 acres identified as unsuitable under Criterion #11.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, the above 440 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

Criterion #14 - Migratory Bird Habitat

The priority migratory bird habitat considerations involved with the coal areas concern golden eagles and prairie falcons.

Competitive Federal Coal Areas

About 1,100 acres containing approximately 5.0 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Note: These 1,100 acres overlap with portions of unsuitable areas identified under Criteria #2, #7, #11, and #13.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, about 640 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

Note: These 640 acres overlap with portions of unsuitable areas identified under Criteria #7, #11, and #13.

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

About 660 acres were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Note: These 660 acres overlap with portions of unsuitable areas identified under Criteria #11 and #13.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, the above 660 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

PRLA Areas

About 440 acres of PRLA #W-23412 were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Note: These 440 acres coincide with the 440 acres identified as unsuitable under Criteria #11 and #13.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable for subsurface mining, however, the above 440 acres are restricted to very limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.).

Criterion #15 - Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife

The primary habitat considerations involved with the coal areas are sage grouse breeding and nesting grounds and critical big game winter ranges. Through consultation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Governor's Office, it was determined that the sage grouse habitat areas are acceptable for coal development (surface or subsurface) with stipulations and

mitigation requirements for habitat improvement, development, and reclamation. The areas involved are identified on Maps 1-5 and 1-6 as "Exception Areas" under this criterion. The following pertains only to critical deer winter range areas.

Competitive Federal Coal Areas

About 3,560 acres containing approximately 16.6 million tons of coal were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas

About 640 acres were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

PRLA Areas

About 8,522 acres of PRLAs #W-16431, #W-19187, #W-19188, #W-19189, and #W-19190 were determined to be unsuitable for surface mining methods.

Criterion #16 - Floodplains

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Through consultation with the GS, it was determined that all identified floodplain areas can be mined in such a manner that all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining can be undertaken without substantial threat of loss to people or property and to the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain, either on a coal lease tract or downstream. Examples of lease stipulations may include but are not limited to: relocation of channels during mining and restoration of channel locations after mining, controlling sediment yields and prohibiting spoil dumping in channels, lining channel bottoms, revegetation, and general mined land reclamation, etc. The areas involved are identified on Maps 1-5 and 1-6 as "Exception Areas" under this criterion.

Criterion #17 - Municipal Watersheds

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #18 - National Resource Waters

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #19 - Alluvial Valley Floors

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

Criterion #20 - State Proposed Criteria

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.

EVALUATION OF OTHER MULTIPLE USE CONFLICTS

The following discussion briefly explains the findings in evaluating the multiple use conflicts. Tables 1-8 through 1-10 (located at the end of the brochure) summarize the results of this step.

Competitive Federal Coal Areas (Surface Mining)

Conflict 1

Surface mining would conflict with proposed utility corridors.

Analysis

This conflict potentially affects about 300 acres, including 80 acres in the proposed Salt Wells East-West utility corridor and 220 acres in the proposed State Highway 430 utility corridor. A possible route change of the proposed East-West utility corridor or negotiations with potential corridor users could reduce the area of conflict. Conversely, final designation of corridors (to occur by April 1982) may expand the area of conflict.

Determination

About 300 acres containing approximately 1.4 million tons of coal were determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal development by surface mining methods pending the outcome of the ongoing utility corridor study. Actual conflicts in these areas should be identified and resolved during the coal activity planning process or in mining and reclamation plan development. This could result in situations where coal development would be unacceptable or where it would be subject to valid existing rights and negotiation for relocation if necessary (of rights-of-way, the corridor, etc.), appropriate stipulations, etc. Approval of all such negotiable possibilities will be subject to consistency with current planning and management decisions.

Conflict 2

Surface coal mining would conflict with the urban expansion area for the city of Rock Springs.

Analysis

This conflict affects about 360 acres south of the city of Rock Springs. This expansion area will be used to accommodate future growth of the city. Surface mining in close proximity to the city, would adversely affect property values (i.e., dust, noise, etc.). Industrial activity is not compatible with residential use; a surface mine could be a potential safety hazard. Sweetwater County and the city of Rock Springs would not be in favor of coal development adjacent to urban areas.

Determination

About 360 acres containing approximately 1.6 million tons of coal were determined to be unacceptable for coal development by surface mining methods.

Conflict 3

Surface coal mining would conflict with producing oil and gas areas. This conflict was surfaced during the public review period for the proposed Salt Wells MFP coal decisions issued in June 1981.

Analysis

Most of the public lands within the Salt Wells portion of the Rock Springs KRCRA have been leased for oil and gas. Development of oil and gas reserves may lead to conflicts with coal development, or vice versa, when both occur in the same or adjacent areas.

In the Salt Wells area, the primary concern of the potential conflict between coal development and oil and gas development centers around the producing oil and gas fields. Within these fields, coal development could result in the loss of oil and gas production. The GS has identified seven producing oil and gas fields, termed Known Geologic Structures (KGSs), within the Salt Wells portion of the Rock Springs KRCRA. Three of these KGSs overlap about 1,200 acres of unleased Federal coal (i.e. competitive coal areas).

Coal leasing should be allowed within a KGS or portions thereof when mining operations would not interfere with operations in a producing oil and gas field or when such conflicts can be mitigated. Determinations to consider coal leasing in KGSs should involve analyzing the affects of coal development upon oil and gas operations on a case-by-case basis, depending upon (1) the completion, production, and abandonment for the wells and facilities; and (2) the timing of these activities with that of physical coal development activities. If coal development would interfere with oil and gas operations and production in a KGS, then further consideration for coal leasing in those areas should be deferred.

Determination

Defer coal leasing in producing oil and gas fields (KGSs) unless or until it is determined that surface coal mining methods will not interfere with economic recovery of the oil and gas resources or that such conflicts can be mitigated. This decision potentially affects about 1,200 acres containing approximately 5.3 million tons of coal.

Explanation

The intent of this determination is to maximize production of energy resources and avoid situations where development of one energy resource would be to the detriment of another. As explained below, this deferment may or may not be long-lived and may ultimately affect more or less than the 1,200 acres identified.

A formal call for expressions of coal leasing interest will immediately follow issuance of the final coal management decisions. Anyone interested in leasing coal in the deferred KGS areas is invited to supply, along with their "expression", any oil and gas operation and production information that would show there will be no conflicts between oil and gas operations and coal development in the area(s) of interest. With GS confirmation of the information submitted, areas within the KGSs would be available for coal tract delineation and would be given futher consideration for coal leasing.

Additionally, before potential coal lease tracts are delineated, the GS-Tract Delineation and BLM-Site Specific Analysis teams will conduct a joint field review of possible lease tract and BLM-Site Specific Analysis teams will conduct a joint field review of possible lease tract areas, especially where there is high coal leasing interest. Any new information gathered in the field regarding oil and gas operations and production will be considered before coal tracts are delineated. Note: This could result in existing KGS areas being available for coal leasing or new KGS areas being identified and deferred where conflicts will exist. Following tract delineation, any new oil and gas operations occurring within a coal tract or new oil and gas information regarding a tract will be analyzed during the coal activity planning process. Since the coal unsuitability criteria were applied to the KGS areas, it will be possible to lift this multiple use planning constraint whenever GS determines either that all or portions of a KGS are no longer required for oil and gas operations or that conflicts between oil and gas operations and coal development can be mitigated.

The detailed procedures for determining oil and gas and coal development conflicts and for applying this planning constraint have been jointly developed by BLM and GS under Department of the Interior guidelines. Information on these procedures is available at the BLM Rock Springs District Office.

Competitive Federal Coal Areas (Subsurface Mining)

Conflict 1

Subsurface mining would conflict with proposed utility corridors.

Analysis

This conflict potentially affects about 400 acres in the proposed State Highway 430 utility corridor and about 1,260 acres in the proposed Salt Wells East-West utility corridor. A possible route change of the proposed East-West utility corridor or negotiations with potential corridor users could reduce the area of conflict. Conversely, final designation of corridors (to occur by April 1982) may expand the area of conflict.

Determination

About 1,660 acres containing approximately 12.1 million tons of coal were determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal development by subsurface mining methods pending the outcome of the ongoing utility corridor study. Actual conflicts in these areas should be identified and resolved during the coal activity planning process or in mining and reclamation plan development. This could result in situations where coal development would be unacceptable or where it would be subject to valid existing rights and negotiation for relocation if necessary (right-of-way, the corridor, etc.), appropriate stipulations, etc. Approval of all such negotiable possibilities will be subject to consistency with current planning and management decisions.

Conflict 2

Subsurface coal mining would conflict with the urban expansion area for the city of Rock Springs.

Analysis

This conflict affects about 120 acres south of the city of Rock Springs. The urban expansion area will be used to accommodate future growth of the city. Surface impacts in close proximity to the city would adversely affect property values (i.e., dust, noise, etc.). Industrial activity is not compatible with residential uses and surface impacts could create a potential safety hazard. Sweetwater County and the city of Rock Springs would not be in favor of coal development adjacent to urban areas.

Determination

About 120 acres containing approximately 0.9 million tons of coal were determined to be unacceptable for subsurface mining methods (including related surface operations and impacts) due to this conflict.

Conflict 3

Subsurface coal mining would conflict with producing oil and gas areas. This conflict was surfaced during the public review period for the proposed Salt Wells MFP coal management decisions issued in June 1981.

Analysis

The preceding analysis and explanation concerning this same conflict on surface mining areas applies here.

Determination

Defer coal leasing in producing oil and gas fields (KGSs) unless or until it is determined that subsurface coal mining methods and development will not interfere with economic recovery of the oil and gas resources or that such conflicts can be mitigated. This decision potentially affects about 2,660 acres containing approximately 19.5 million tons of coal.

Federal Surface-State Coal Areas (Surface and Subsurface Mining)

No multiple use conflicts were identified in these areas. All such lands reviewed are acceptable for coal development by either mining method under this consideration.

PRLA Areas (Surface and Subsurface Mining)

There were no multiple use conflicts identified in the PRLA areas. It should be noted that additional multiple use conflicts may be identified in the course of preparing environmental assessments and other PRLA processing requirements yet to be completed.

SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION (SURFACE MINING)

This consultation requirement concerned only those private surface-Federal coal (split estate) lands in competitive coal areas that remained acceptable for surface coal mining after applying the coal unsuitability criteria and conducting the multiple use conflict analysis. Since none of the surface owners involved expressed a preference against surface mining the Federal coal on their lands, no additional split estate lands were determined to be unavailable for further consideration for leasing.

Note: surface owner consultation does not apply to Federal surface-State coal areas, PRLAs, or to competitive Federal coal areas where only subsurface mining is being considered.

SUMMARY OF THE COAL SCREENING PROCESS

Table 1-11 and Maps 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 contain the results of the coal screening process. These results were used to formulate the final decisions presented earlier in this brochure.

ACTIONS TO FOLLOW

A formal call for expressions of interest in leasing Federal coal will follow immediately. This will involve the competitive coal areas identified as acceptable, acceptable pending study and deferred from leasing. Exchange proposals must be formally submitted during this expression period to avoid potential conflicts with delineating tracts for competitive coal leasing.

The second Federal coal lease sale for the Green River-Hams Fork Coal Production Region is scheduled to be held in March 1984. Public notices will be issued for the various actions and events leading up to the lease sale.

Processing of PRLAs will continue and PRLA leasing decisions will be made when processing is completed.

TABLE 1-1

FEDERAL COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Competitive Coal Areas

	Acres	Tons [1] (Millions)
1. High and Moderate Potential for [2]		
a. Surface Mining Methods	8,440	38
b. Subsurface Mining Methods	20,920	153.5
c. Surface and Subsurface Mining Methods	3,120	(Surface) 14.1
		(Subsurface) 22.9
2. Other areas assumed to have Moderate Potential for Surface and Subsurface Mining Methods [3]	14,160	(Surface) 63.8
		(Subsurface) 103.9

[1] Tonnage computation for this and all other tables was based upon an average of 4,505 tons per acre for surface mining methods (100% recovery) and 7,337 tons per acre for subsurface mining methods (50% recovery). These averages were derived from high and moderate coal development potential areas as identified by Geological Survey CRO-CDP Maps and open file reports.

[2] Derived from Geological Survey CRO-CDP Maps.

[3] Derived from indications of industry interest and other available resource data.

TABLE 1-2

APPLICATION OF UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA
COMPETITIVE FEDERAL COAL AREAS

		Surface Mining Methods				Subsurface Mining Methods			
		Unsuitable[1]		Acceptable		Unsuitable[1]		Acceptable	
	Criterion	Acres	Tons (Millions)	Acres	Tons (Millions)	Acres	Tons (Millions)	Acres	Tons (Millions)
1.	Federal Land Systems	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
2.	Rights-of-Way & Easements	120[4]	0.5	25,600	115.5	84[2]	0.6	38,116	279.4
3.	Buffer Zones for Rights-of-Way, Communities & Buildings	14	0.06	25,706	115.94	8[2]	0.06	38,192	280.24
4.	Wilderness Study Areas	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
5.	Scenic Areas	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
6.	Land Used for Scientific Study	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
7.	Historic Lands & Sites	640	2.9	25,080	113.1	920[3]	0	38,200	280.3
8.	Natural Areas	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
9.	Federally Listed Endangered Species Habitat	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
10.	State Listed Endangered Species Habitat	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
11.	Bald & Golden Eagle Nests	1,020	4.6	24,700	111.4	0	0	38,200 600[5]	280.3
12.	Bald & Golden Eagle Roost & Concentration Areas	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
13.	Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites	500	2.3	25,220	113.7	0	0	38,200 80[5]	280.3
14.	Migratory Bird Habitat	1,100	5.0	24,620	111.0	0	0	38,200 640[5]	280.3
15.	Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife	3,560[4]	16.1	22,160	99.9	0[4]	0	38,200	280.3
16.	Floodplains	0[4]	0	25,720	116.0	0[4]	0	38,200	280.3
17.	Municipal Watersheds	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
18.	National Resource Waters	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
19.	Alluvial Valley Floors	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3
20.	State-Proposed Criteria	0	0	25,720	116.0	0	0	38,200	280.3

[1] The acres and Federal coal tonnages listed under each criterion sometimes overlap areas found unsuitable through application of other criteria. Therefore, the total acres excluded from development by all the unsuitability criteria will be less than the sum of the individual listings under each criterion.

[2] Includes surface operations and impacts.

[3] Surface operations and impacts only - coal tonnages not affected.

[4] After exceptions.

[5] This portion of the total acreage acceptable for subsurface mining is acceptable for only limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilities, seasonal occupancy, etc.). Tonnages are not affected, since subsurface mining "itself" is still acceptable under these areas.

TABLE 1-3

APPLICATION OF UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA
FEDERAL SURFACE-STATE COAL AREAS

Criterion	Surface Mining Methods		Subsurface Mining Methods	
	Unsuitable Acres	Acceptable Acres	Unsuitable Acres	Acceptable Acres
1. Federal Land Systems	0	5,120	0	5,120
2. Rights-of-Way & Easements	360	4,760	50[1]/ 310[2]/	5,070
3. Buffer Zones for Rights-of-Way, Communities & Buildings	18	5,102	18[1]/	5,102
4. Wilderness Study Areas	0	5,120	0	5,120
5. Scenic Areas	0	5,120	0	5,120
6. Land Used for Scientific Study	0	5,120	0	5,120
7. Historic Lands & Sites	0	5,120	0	5,120
8. Natural Areas	0	5,120	0	5,120
9. Federally Listed Endangered Species Habitat	0	5,120	0	5,120
10. State Listed Endangered Species Habitat	0	5,120	0	5,120
11. Bald & Golden Eagle Nests	560	4,560	0	5,120 560[3]/
12. Bald & Golden Eagle Roost & Concentration Areas	0	5,120	0	5,120
13. Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites	500	4,620	0	5,120 500[3]/
14. Migratory Bird Habitat	660	4,460	0	5,120 660[3]/
15. Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife	640	4,480	0	5,120
16. Floodplains	0	5,120	0	5,120
17. Municipal Watersheds	0	5,120	0	5,120
18. National Resource Waters	0	5,120	0	5,120
19. Alluvial Valley Floors	0	5,120	0	5,120
20. State-Proposed Criteria	0	5,120	0	5,120

1/ Includes surface operations and impacts.

2/ Surface operations and impacts only.

3/ This portion of the total acreage acceptable for subsurface mining is acceptable for only limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilties, seasonal occupancy, etc.). Subsurface mining "itself" is still acceptable under these areas.

TABLE 1-4

APPLICATION OF UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA
PRLA AREAS

	Criterion	Surface Mining Methods Unsuitable Acres	Surface Mining Methods Acceptable Acres	Subsurface Mining Methods Unsuitable Acres	Subsurface Mining Methods Acceptable Acres
1.	Federal Land Systems	0	16,202	0	16,202
2.	Rights-of-Way & Easements	0[1]	16,202	0[1]	16,202
3.	Buffer Zones for Rights-of-Way, Communities & Buildings	0	16,202	0	16,202
4.	Wilderness Study Areas				
5.	Scenic Areas	0	16,202	0	16,202
6.	Land Used for Scientific Study	0	16,202	0	16,202
7.	Historic Lands & Sites	0	16,202	0	16,202
8.	Natural Areas	0	16,202	0	16,202
9.	Federally Listed Endangered Species Habitat	0	16,202	0	16,202
10.	State Listed Endangered Species Habitat	0	16,202	0	16,202
11.	Bald & Golden Eagle Nests	40	15,762	0	16,202 440[2]
12.	Bald & Golden Eagle Roost & Concentration Areas	0	16,202	0	16,202
13.	Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites	440	15,762	0	16,202 440[2]
14.	Migratory Bird Habitat	440	15,762	0	16,202 440[2]
15.	Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife	8,522[1]	7,680	0[1]	16,202
16.	Floodplains	0[1]	16,202	0[1]	16,202
17.	Municipal Watersheds	0	16,202	0	16,202
18.	National Resource Waters	0	16,202	0	16,202
19.	Alluvial Valley Floors	0	16,202	0	16,202
20.	State-Proposed Criteria	0	16,202	0	16,202

[1] After exceptions.

[2] This portion of the total acreage acceptable for subsurface mining is acceptable for only limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining (e.g., subject to restrictive placement and types of facilties, seasonal occupancy, etc.). Subsurface mining "itself" is still acceptable under these areas.

TABLE 1-5

SUMMARY-APPLICATION OF UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA COMPETITIVE FEDERAL COAL AREAS

Determination	Federal Surface Federal Coal Acres	Federal Surface Federal Coal Tons (Millions)	Private Surface Federal Coal Acres	Private Surface Federal Coal Tons (Millions)	Total Federal Coal Acres	Total Federal Coal Tons (Millions)
			Areas With Surface Mining Potential			
Unsuitable	4,920	22.1	80	0.4	5,000	22.5
Acceptable	20,520	92.4	200	0.9	20,720	93.3
			Areas With Subsurface Mining Potential			
Unsuitable	92	0.7	0	0	92	0.7
Acceptable	37,988	278.7	120	0.9	38,108	279.6
			Surface Operations And Impacts Associated With Subsurface Mining			
Unsuitable[1/]	920	N/A	0	N/A	920	N/A
Acceptable	37,068	N/A	120	N/A	37,188	N/A
Acceptable[2/] with limitations	440	N/A	0	N/A	440	N/A

[1/] The acres determined unsuitable for surface operations and impacts were subtracted from those acres determined acceptable for subsurface mining.

[2/] Acceptable for only limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining.

TABLE 1-6

SUMMARY-APPLICATION OF UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA
FEDERAL SURFACE-STATE COAL AREAS

Determination	Surface Mining Potential (Acres)	Subsurface Mining Potential (Acres)	Subsurface Operations And Impacts Associated With Subsurface Mining (Acres)
Unsuitable	1,680	68	378
Acceptable	3,440	5,052	4,012
Acceptable With Limitations	0	0	730[1/]

[1/] Acceptable for only limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining.

TABLE 1-7

SUMMARY-APPLICATION OF UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA
PRLA AREAS

Determination	Lease Application Serial Number W-23411 (Acres)	W-23412 (Acres)	W-16431 (Acres)	W-19187 (Acres)	W-19188 (Acres)	W-19189 (Acres)	W-19190 (Acres)
Surface Mining Potential							
Unsuitable	0	440	0	2,240	2,560	2,029	1,373
Acceptable	2,560	2,120	2,880	0	0	0	0
Subsurface Mining Potential							
Unsuitable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acceptable	2,560	2,560	2,880	2,240	2,560	2,029	1,373
Surface Operations And Impacts Associated With Subsurface Mining							
Unsuitable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acceptable	2,560	2,120	2,880	2,240	2,560	2,029	1,373
Acceptable With Limitations	0	440[1/]	0	0	0	0	0

[1/] Acceptable for only limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining.

TABLE 1-8

SUMMARY-MULTIPLE USE CONFLICT EVALUATION COMPETITIVE FEDERAL COAL AREAS

Determination	Federal Surface Federal Coal		Private Surface Federal Coal		Total Federal Coal	
	Acres	Tons (Millions)	Acres	Tons (Millions)	Acres	Tons (Millions)
			Areas With Surface Mining Potential			
Unacceptable	360	1.6	0	0	360	1.6
Deferred Areas (KGSs)	1,200	5.4	0	0	1,200	5.4
Acceptable - Pending Utility Corridor Study	300	1.4	0	0	300	1.4
Acceptable	18,660	84.1	200	0.9	18,860	85.0
			Areas With Subsurface Mining Potential[1/]			
Unacceptable	120	0.9	0	0	120	0.9
Deferred Areas (KGSs)	2,660	19.5	0	0	2,660	19.5
Acceptable - Pending Utility Corridor Study	1,660	12.2	0	0	1,660	12.2
Acceptable	33,548	246.1	120	0.9	33,668	247.0
			Surface Operations And Impacts Associated With Subsurface Mining[2/]			
Unacceptable	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Acceptable	32,628	N/A	120	N/A	32,748	N/A

[1/] Includes surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining.

[2/] The acres determined unacceptable for subsurface mining, deferred areas, and areas pending study (4,440) were subtracted from those acres determined acceptable for surface operations and impacts on Table 1-5 (37,188) to arrive at this total.

TABLE 1-9

SUMMARY-MULTIPLE USE CONFLICT EVALUATION FEDERAL SURFACE-STATE COAL AREAS

Determination	Surface Mining Potential (Acres)	Subsurface Mining Potential (Acres)	Surface Operations And Impacts Associated With Subsurface Mining (Acres)
Unacceptable	0	0	0
Acceptable	3,440	5,052	4,742

TABLE 1-10

SUMMARY-MULTIPLE USE CONFLICT EVALUATION
PRLA AREAS

Determination	W-23411 (Acres)	W-23412 (Acres)	W-16431 (Acres)	W-19187 (Acres)	W-19188 (Acres)	W-19189 (Acres)	W-19190 (Acres)
	Lease Application Serial Number						
	Surface Mining Potential						
Unacceptable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acceptable	2,560	2,120[1/]	2,880	0	0	0	0
	Subsurface Mining Potential						
Unacceptable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acceptable	2,560	2,560	2,880	2,240	2,560	2,029	1,373
	Surface Operations And Impacts Associated With Subsurface Mining						
Unacceptable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acceptable	2,560	2,560	2,880	2,240	2,560	2,029	1,373

[1/] This acreage is less than the total for the PRLA due to areas determined to be unsuitable under unsuitability criteria application.

TABLE 1-11

SUMMARY OF RESULTS-COAL SCREENING PROCESS

Coal Screening Process	Competitive Federal Coal Areas				Federal Surface-State Coal Areas		PRLA Areas[3]	
	Surface		Subsurface		Surface	Subsurface	Surface	Subsurface
	Acres[1]	Tons[2] (Millions)	Acres[1]	Tons[2] (Millions)	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Known & Assumed High & Moderate Coal Development Potential	25,720	116.0	38,200	280.3	5,120	5,120	N/A	N/A
Unsuitable Areas	5,000	22.5	92	.68	1,680	68	8,962	0
Unsuitable for Surface Operations & Impacts Only	N/A	N/A	920	N/A	N/A	310	0	0
Unacceptable Areas	360	1.6	120	.9	0	0	0	0
Unacceptable for Surface Operations & Impacts Only	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0
Unavailable Areas	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Area & Federal Coal Excluded	5,360	24.1	212	.77	1,680	68	8,962	0
Deferred Areas (KGSs)	1,200	5.4	2,660	19.5	0	0	0	0
Acceptable - Pending Utility Corridor Study	300	1.3	1,660	12.2	0	0	0	0
Remaining Area & Federal Coal Available for Coal Development	18,860	85.0	33,668	247.0	3,440	5,052	7,240	16,202
Total Area Unsuitable & Unacceptable for Surface Operations & Impacts	N/A	N/A	920	N/A	N/A	310	N/A	0
Remaining Area Acceptable for Surface Operations & Impacts	N/A	N/A	32,748 440[4]	N/A	N/A	4,742 730[4]	N/A	16,202 440[4]

N/A Not Applicable

[1] Actual review area (portion of Rock Springs KRCRA in Salt Wells Resource Area) surface acreage is 46,640 acres excluding PRLAs. The review area acreages reflect surface/subsurface acreage which overlaps.

[2] Tonnage computation was based on an average of 4,505 tons of coal per acre for surface mining methods (100% recovery) and 7,337 tons of coal per acre for subsurface mining methods (50% recovery). These averages were derived from high and moderate coal potential areas as identified by Geological Survey CRO-CDP Maps and open file reports.

[3] The total PRLA area reviewed was 16,202 acres.

[4] Acceptable for only limited surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface mining.

AREA MAP B

AREA MAP C

N

Bitter Creek
80
30
Rock Springs
T. 18 N.
WILKINS PEAK
4-29
Creek
373
Bitter
Little
T. 17 N.
4-33
T. 16 N.
R. 106 W.
T. 15 N.
Sage Creek
R. 105 W.

T. 20 N.
Bitter Creek
80
30
T. 19 N.
Bitter Creek
4-51
Black Buttes
T. 18 N.
T. 17 N.
Black Butte Creek
4-24
4-26
R. 100 W.
T. 16 N.
T. 15 N.
430
ELK BUTTE
Salt Wells Creek
POTTER MOUNTAIN
4-27
T. 14 N.
T. 13 N.
R. 104 W.
R. 103 W.
Coyote Creek
R. 102 W.
R. 101 W.

Scale 1 : 200,000

0 5 10

Miles

LOCATOR MAP

A
B
C
80
Green River
Rock Springs
Flaming Gorge Reservoir

Unsuitable Areas (Criteria 2, 3, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15)

Unacceptable Areas (Multiple Use Conflicts)

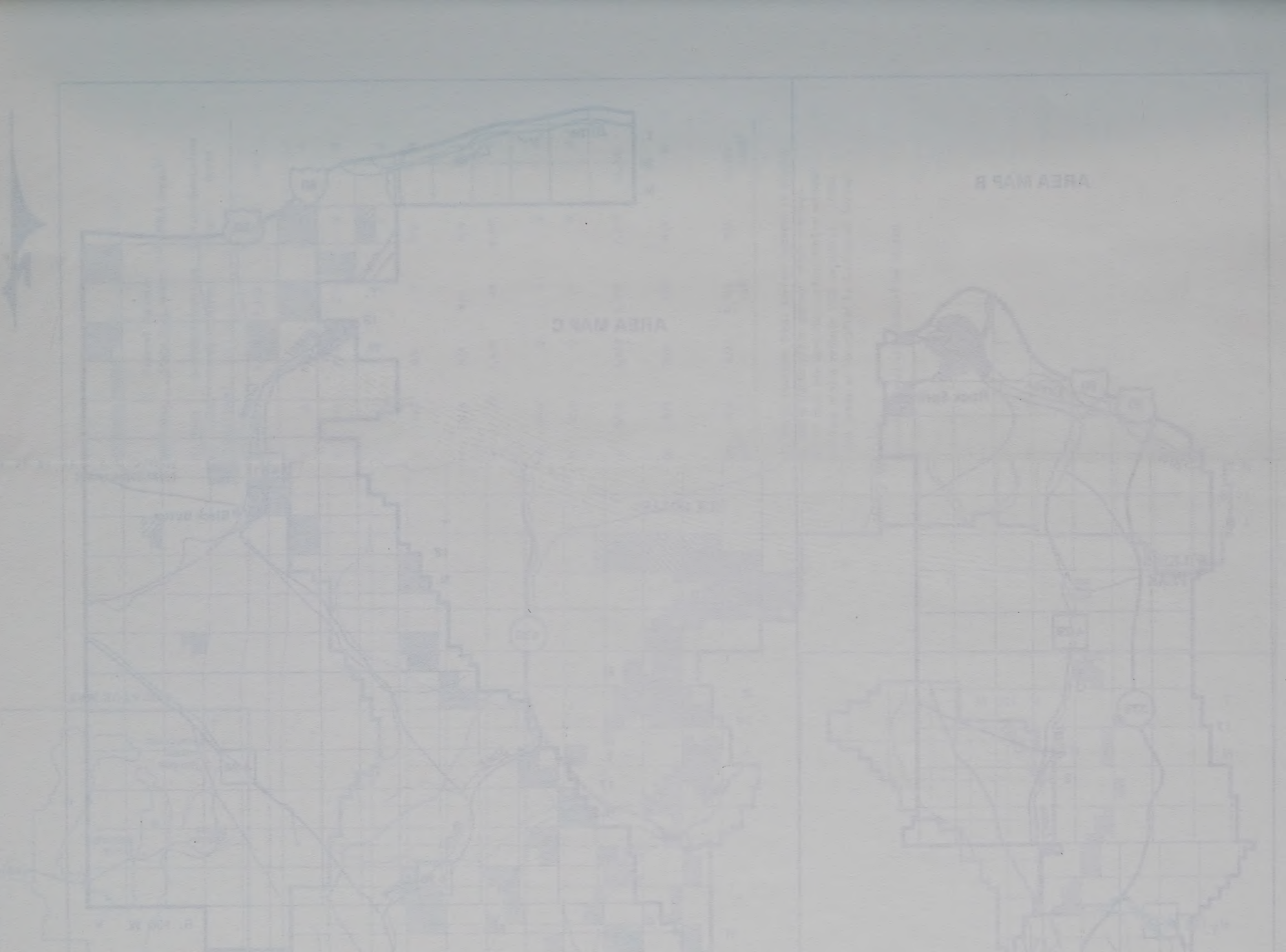
Deferred Areas (KGSs)

Acceptable Areas-Pending Utility Corridor Study

Acceptable Areas

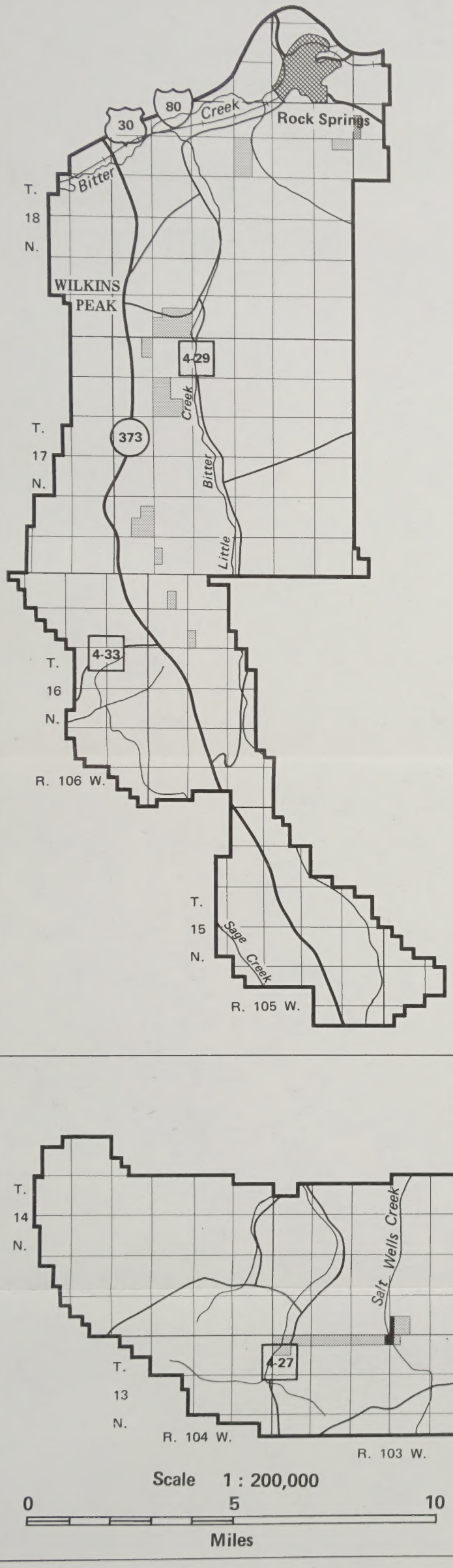
MAP 1–4

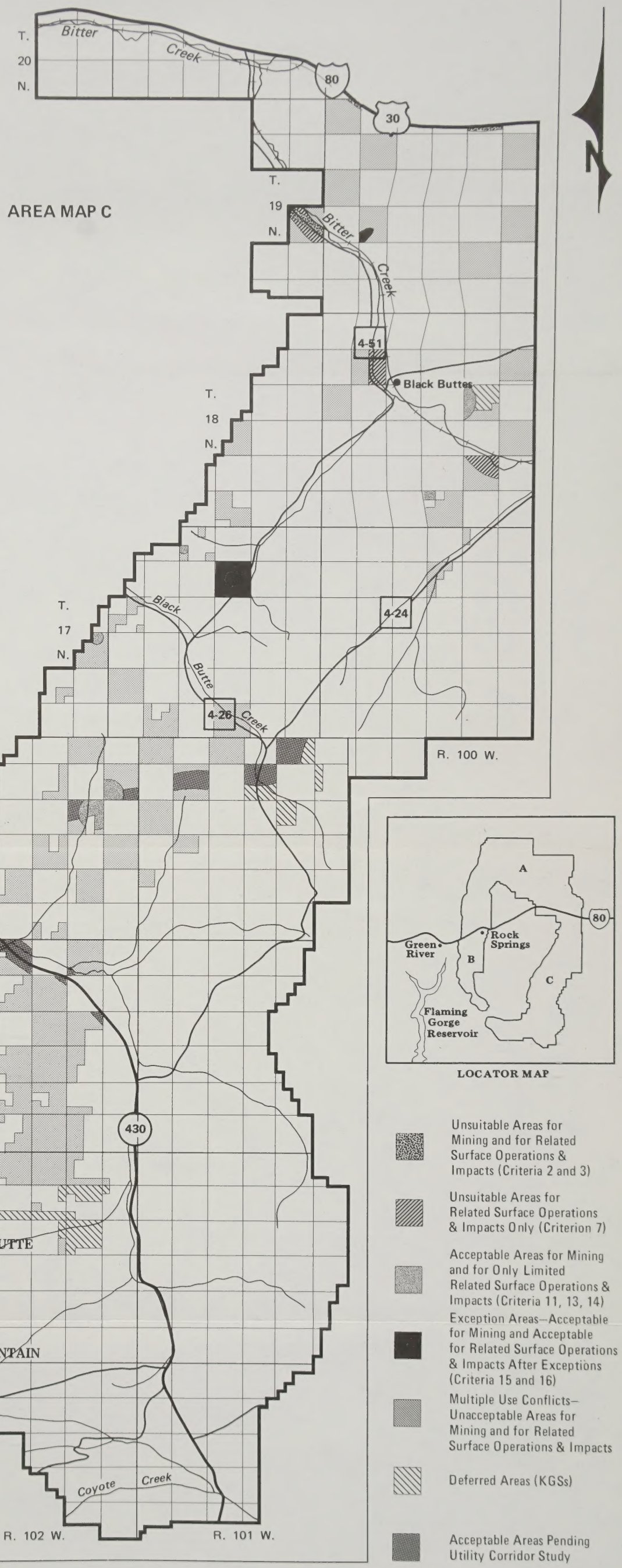
FEDERAL COAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS:
SURFACE MINING (Competitive Coal Areas)



AREA MAP B

AREA MAP C





LOCATOR MAP

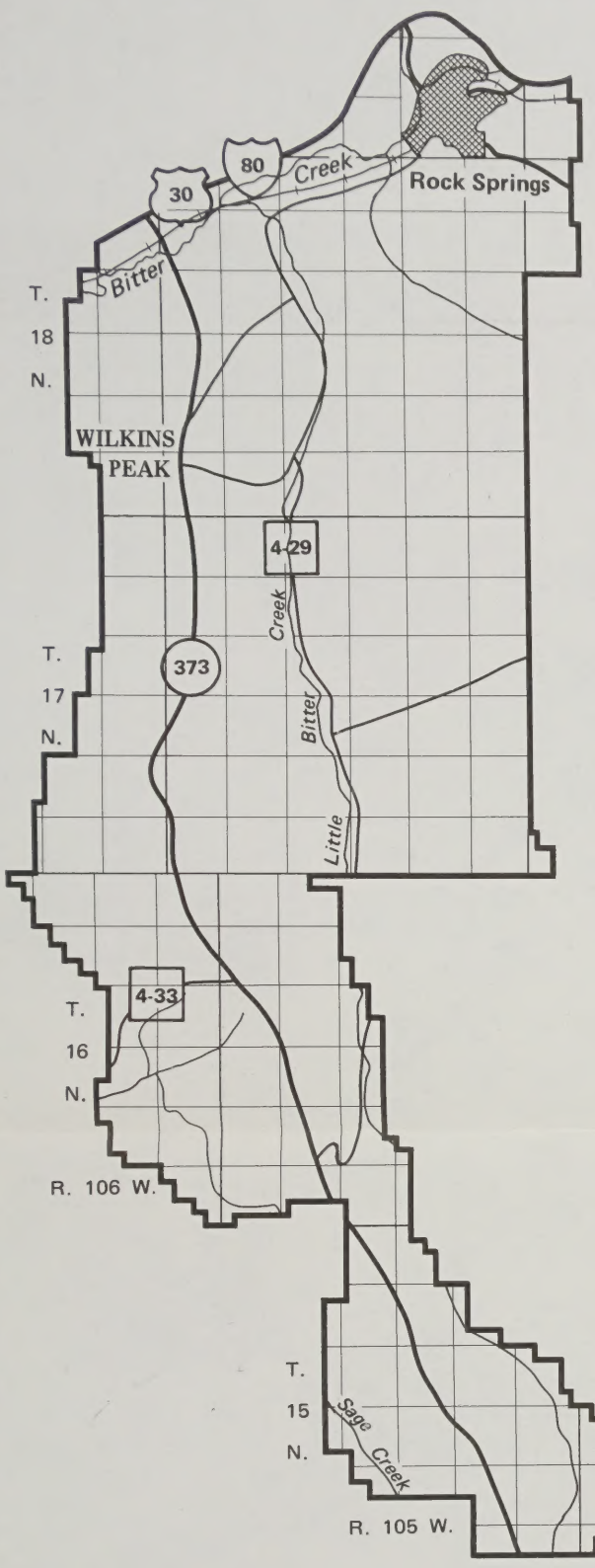
- Unsuitable Areas for Mining and for Related Surface Operations & Impacts (Criteria 2 and 3)
- Unsuitable Areas for Related Surface Operations & Impacts Only (Criterion 7)
- Acceptable Areas for Mining and for Only Limited Related Surface Operations & Impacts (Criteria 11, 13, 14)
- Exception Areas—Acceptable for Mining and Acceptable for Related Surface Operations & Impacts After Exceptions (Criteria 15 and 16)
- Multiple Use Conflicts—Unacceptable Areas for Mining and for Related Surface Operations & Impacts
- Deferred Areas (KGSs)
- Acceptable Areas Pending Utility Corridor Study
- Acceptable Areas for Mining and for Related Surface Operations & Impacts

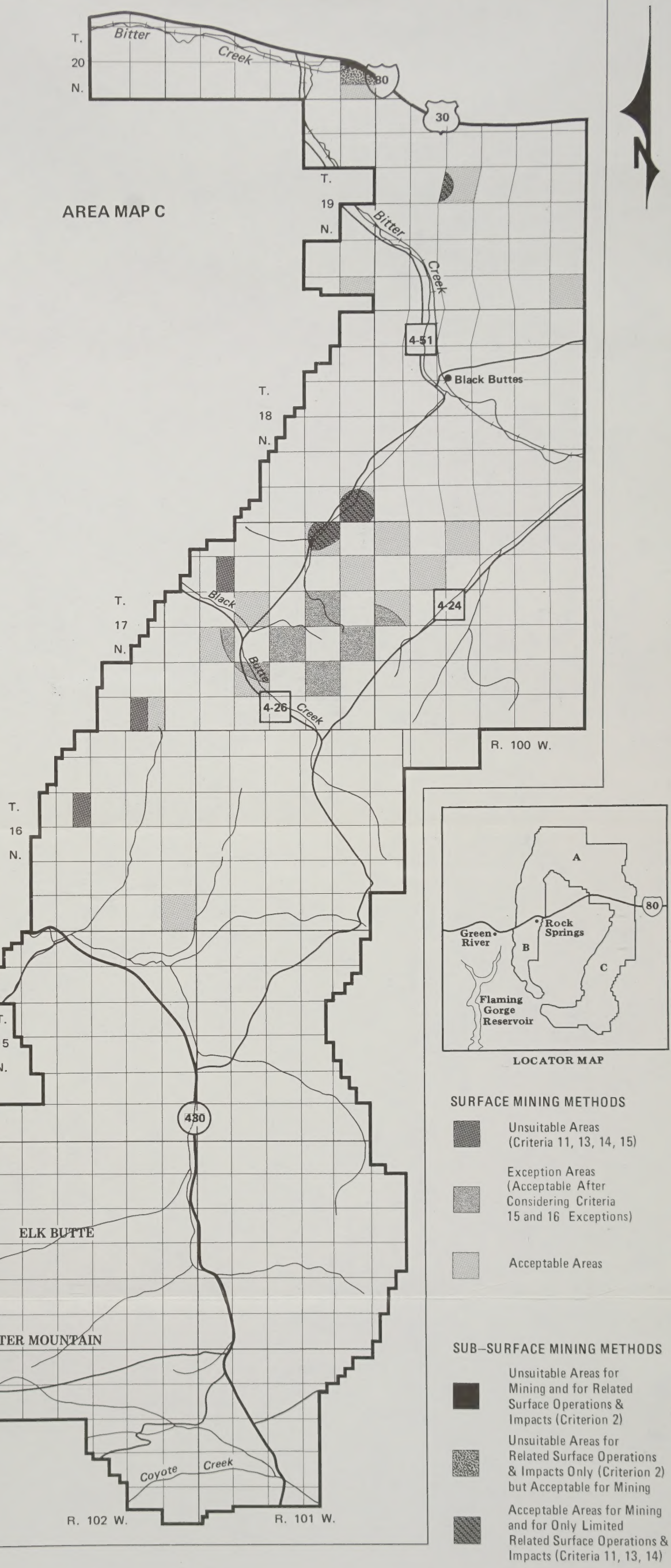
MAP 1–5

FEDERAL COAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS:
SUB–SURFACE MINING (Competitive Coal Areas)

AREA MAP B

AREA MAP C





Scale 1 : 200,000

0 5 10

Miles

LOCATOR MAP

SURFACE MINING METHODS

- Unsuitable Areas (Criteria 11, 13, 14, 15)
- Exception Areas (Acceptable After Considering Criteria 15 and 16 Exceptions)
- Acceptable Areas

SUB–SURFACE MINING METHODS

- Unsuitable Areas for Mining and for Related Surface Operations & Impacts (Criterion 2)
- Unsuitable Areas for Related Surface Operations & Impacts Only (Criterion 2) but Acceptable for Mining
- Acceptable Areas for Mining and for Only Limited Related Surface Operations & Impacts (Criteria 11, 13, 14)

All Other Areas Shown on this Map are Acceptable for Sub–Surface Mining and for Related Surface Operations & Impacts

MAP 1–6

FEDERAL SURFACE-STATE COAL AREAS and PRLAs–RESULTS of COAL UNSUITABILITY REVIEW and MULTIPLE USE CONFLICT EVALUATION

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